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13. ABSTRACT (Maximum 200 Words)

The annual conference of the Cognitive Science Society is the premier forum for the presentation and discussion of high-quality empirical, theoretical, and analytic work that contributes to the advancement of cognitive science. Air Force support was used to fund publications, graduate student participation, support for plenary speakers, logistical support, and technical demonstrations. These demonstrations included several Synthetic Task Environments (STE's) which were set up for this meeting by Dr. Kevin Gluck of the Air Force Research Laboratory, Mesa, Arizona. The 24th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society was held August 8 through August 10, 2002, at George Mason University, Fairfax, VA, with Tutorials and workshops on Wednesday, August 7, 2002. Copies of the complete proceedings are available online at the Society's website: <http://cogsci.psy.utexas.edu/confproc/gmu02/>

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Request for AFOSR Support of the 24th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society (CogSci2002).

Conference

The 24th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society (CogSci2002) will be held from Thursday, Aug 8th - Saturday, Aug 10th, 2002 at George Mason University, in Fairfax Virginia. Tutorials and workshops will be held the day before, Wednesday August 7th.

Overview

The annual Cognitive Science conference is the premier forum for the presentation of high quality empirical, theoretical, and analytic work that contributes to the advancement of cognitive science. Theory plays an important role in all research; however, nothing pushes theory so well (and in such interdisciplinary directions) as applied research problems. In keeping with this theme, the CogSci2002 conference will strongly encourage proposals for symposia that emphasize the interplay between theory-based research and problems that originate in an applied domain (e.g., education, medicine, military, engineering, human-computer interaction, transportation safety).

Why AFOSR Funding

Historically AFOSR has valued and supported the development of the field of cognitive science in general and cognitive modeling in particular. The interdisciplinary nature of cognitive science has provided a venue for researchers from computer science, psychology, neuroscience, anthropology, education, and philosophy to transcend their disciplinary boundaries and develop the leading edge theories and products valued by AFOSR. This year the emphasis of the conference will be on real-world challenges and applications of cognitive science. The location of the conference, the Washington Metropolitan area, provides an opportunity for government decision makers to attend and for various government agencies to use the conference to highlight their contributions to science.

The value of the Cognitive Science Conference to the Air Force is shown, in part, by the participation in the conference by Air Force researchers and university researchers supported by Air Force research monies. For example, Dr. Kevin Gluck of the Air Force Research Laboratory, Mesa, AZ has organized a Symposium that will provide a report of an Air Force funded research project whose researchers include members of the Wright-Patterson Lab as well as two university researchers and one corporate researcher. Similarly, all of the researchers who were invited to attend the January Winter ACT-R Workshop held in Mesa AZ (funded by AFOSR) will be in attendance at the conference. Likewise, we expect many of the attendees at a recent AFOSR grantees meeting on Synthetic Task Environments (held at George Mason University in the Fall of 2001) to participate in CogSci2002.

What AFOSR will support

We are asking for \$15,000 in AFOSR funding to support the CogSci2002 conference. The AFOSR contribution would be used to partially fund the following events.

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Demonstrations of Synthetic Task Environments. As appropriate, secure space will be provided in the vendor area for AFOSR funded researchers to set up equipment to demonstrate their software. This space would be in addition to the demonstrations at the evening poster reception and demonstration.

Support for Shuttle Buses. Holding an international campus in the Fairfax area presents some unique logistical problems. AFOSR support would be used to partially defray the expenses of shuttle buses between the campus and the conference hotel. Such support would help us draw an international audience.

Support for Plenary Speakers. The two invited plenary speakers for this year's conference are David Woods of Ohio State and Stu Card of Xerox PARC. Both speakers are known for significant contributions to cognitive theory in the context of research directed towards enhancing human performance. AFOSR support would be used to help defray some of the expenses of these speakers.

Support for publishing the proceedings. AFOSR funds may be used to pay part of the expense of publishing the proceedings. Lawrence Erlbaum & Associates has agreed to publish the proceedings. Erlbaum is an established publisher who has supported the publication of cognitive science research. As publisher, Erlbaum will ensure that the proceedings are readily available. Erlbaum will also ensure that the proceedings are publicized. Also in this category of expenses we have included some funds to support postage and photocopying.

Support for publishing the conference program. AFOSR funds may be used to pay for the printing of the conference program. The program will contain the abstracts of all talks and posters presented at the conference. It will also provide a place for us to acknowledge the support of our patrons.

Graduate Student Subsidies. By supporting the above activities, AFOSR will be enable us to provide graduate students with low registration fees. Cheap registration fees are a way of encouraging the next generation of researchers to consider themselves as cognitive scientists.